EDWARD VII, ENGLAND'S NEW KING.

The Kind of Man Who Comes to the Throne of Great Britain After Many Years of Waiting --- His Gracious and Noble Queen, Alexandra --- Some Facts About the New Heir Apparent.

Edward VII, the new king of England and emperor of India, is in his sixtieth year. He is well preserved, of average height, of portly build, florid as to complexion and of an even, placid temperament.

In the shadow of the throne he has lived an almost uneventful life. While waiting for the scepter and royal robes he has had little chance to show what kingly mettle was in him.

The world knows him only as a jolly prince who has done nothing very good nor any great evil. Perhaps the most notable feature of his life thus far has been his fondness for sports. He has raced horses, sailed yachts, shot birds, played cards and gambled more or less, with more or less discretion.

He might have come to the throne as Albert I, starting a new line of kings, but many years ago he announced that when he ascended the throne he would use his second name, Edward, and be known as King Edward VII in preference to King Albert I. The English people have always looked forward to him as King Edward VII.

EDWARD VII.

His eldest son, the Duke of York, who becomes the Prince of Wales by his father's accession to the throne, has also an Edward in his long list of names, and his eldest son, who will be king of England some day, if he lives, has also an Edward in his name. It has been argued that by calling himself Edward VII the new king could revive the line of kingly Edwards, and in time they would exceed in number the Henrys who have sat upon the English throne.

It was long the fond hope of Victoria's heart that her son should reign under the title of Albert, the name of his father, her beloved husband. But Albert is a strange name to English ears in the list of royal titles. The prince himself desired to be called Edward. The queen's ministers and the queen's subjects desired it, so at last the mother, so fond of her own way in everything, saw that it were better to yield. But she is reported to have shed tears over it.

It was on the morning of the 9th of November, 1841, that an anxious group of personages waited in the great rooms of Buckingham palace. They were dignitaries of church and state who had been summoned in accordance with royal etiquette to be present at the arrival of a possible heir to the throne of England. They gathered together in the anteroom close by the queen's bed chamber. Among them were archbishops and bishops, arrayed in silk shovel hats and gorgeous aprons; members of the cabinet, headed by the prime minister; nurses and doctors by the score.

For hours this motley assemblage awaited the event. Their patience was rewarded.

"Is it a boy?" anxiously asked the Duke of Wellington of the nurse.

"It is a prince, your grace," answered the woman, with unruffled dignity.

When it was announced that the hopes and wishes of a nation had been fulfilled and that a boy had been born there was universal gratulation. Prelates and statesmen embraced one another with uncontrolled effusiveness. Cannon from the grounds without thundered the news to all the surrounding districts. Thousands of church bells took up the glad tidings and pealed out the announcement to an expectant nation. Early in the morning the privy council met in state to ordain prayer and thanksgiving from one end of the country to the other.

A few weeks later, on the occasion of the prince's baptism in the Royal chapel of Windsor, he was shown from the balcony to a huge crowd of persons, who went wild with delight.

The boyhood of the prince was uneventful. His early education was conducted at home under the tutelage of the Rev. H. M. Birch, rector of Prestwich; Mr. Gibbs, barrister at law; the Rev. C. F. Tarver and Mr. H. W. Fisher. He then studied for a session at Edinburgh and later entered Christchurch, Oxford. Here he attended public lectures for a year and afterward resided for three or four terms at Trinity college, Cambridge, for the same purpose.

His earliest appearance in a leading part on any public occasion was in 1859, at the laying of the foundation stone of the Lambeth School of Art at Vauxhall. After the death of his father in December, 1861, he naturally became the most desirable functionary at all ceremonies in which beneficent or charitable undertakings were to be recognized by royal approval. This work has ever since occupied a large share of his time and has always been performed with dignity, tact and patience. Indeed no prince of any country has ever personally exerted himself more faithfully to render services of this sort to the community. The multiplicity and variety of his engagements on behalf of local and special enterprises make a surprising list and necessarily involved a sacrifice of ease and leisure which few men of high rank would care to make.

Among the members of the royal family the Prince of Wales has been called Bertie from his childhood. His father called him by that name; his mother entered it in her daily diary long after he had grown to manhood and become the father of a large family; his wife calls him Bertie today. But woe be to any outsider, however intimate, who dares address the prince by that name!

An adoring British aristocracy has applied all sorts of names to the popular heir apparent, which have been taken up by many Americans who have met him and a great many more who have not. Some of these pet names have not been altogether dignified, or even respectful—such as "tum-tum." But the prince has put up with them all good naturedly. But Bertie was for the family alone. The Princess of Wales' wedding ring is set with a beryl, an emerald, a ruby, a turquoise, an iacinth and a second emerald. The initials of these six gems spell "Bertie." It was the princess' idea.

In the summer of 1860 the prince paid a visit to Canada and the United States. Everywhere he was received with boundless enthusiasm. He danced at a ball given in his honor at Washington, where he was cordially welcomed by President Buchanan.

The United States indeed was prepared to receive him with open arms. At Hamilton, the last place in Canada where he made a halt, he had spoken some kindly words, which awoke general approval here.

"My duties," he said, "as representative of the queen cease this day, but in a private capacity I am about to visit before my return home that remarkable land which claims with us a common ancestry and in whose extraordinary progress every Englishman feels a common interest."

THE NEW PRINCESS OF WALES.

In 1862, accompanied by Dean Stanley, he made a journey to the east, including a visit to Jerusalem. The young prince was now of a marriageable age. Speculation was rife as to who would be the lady of his choice. The question was settled in the early part of 1863, when his engagement was announced to Princess Alexandra, the eldest daughter of the king of Denmark. She was three years younger than the prince and, though comparatively poor, was beautiful and accomplished. The marriage was celebrated in St. George's chapel, Windsor castle, on March 10, 1863.

All England rejoiced over the event. Tennyson, who had just been made poet laureate, wrote one of his fine poems, "A Welcome to Alexandra," on this occasion. The princess soon made herself very popular with all classes of the British public, not only by her outward grace of manner, but also by her virtues and amiability. The prince himself has always shared in this popularity, although the sterner puritanism of his potential subjects has often been shocked by stories of his dissipation.

As a social factor in England the prince has always been supreme. Ward McAllister called him "the great social dictator." It was largely through his influence that many Americans—a nation whom he has always liked—have received their entree into the inner circles of the British aristocracy. Nevertheless the social and fashionable side of his life has been more of a duty than a pleasure to him. He has always been most content when surrounded by a circle of his old friends at his palace, in Sandringham, a small village in the county of Norfolk. There he has lived the life of an English country gentleman.

The affection and esteem in which the prince has been held were never better exemplified than in December, 1871, when he was attacked by typhoid fever and for some weeks hung between life and death. The anxiety of the public was intense, and the news of his recovery was greeted with great joy. On his first appearance in public to take part in the memorable "thanksgiving service" in St. Paul's cathedral on Feb. 27, 1872, the streets along the line of his route were crowded with a cheering multitude.

Since then the prince has been putting in several years of quiet work, taking a great deal of the responsibility that attaches to sovereignty off his mother's hands. He visited India and Ireland, engaged in solidifying the empire. He started intercolonial and international exhibitions. He encouraged and liberally subscribed to public charities. He has been a liberal patron of art and of the drama. It is impossible to overestimate his power as a social factor. He has dictated fashions and dominated manners. On him fell the full responsibility of the arrangements for the celebration of his mother's jubilee in 1887. He worked like a slave.

It is impossible not to mention two notable things of recent years—the baccarat scandal and the death of the prince's eldest son and his heir, the Duke of Clarence. The card scandal came up in the winter of 1890 while the prince was visiting Mrs. Arthur Wilson at Tranby Croft. Sir William Gordon-Cumming, a cavalry officer of good family, was charged with cheating. It was said that he increased his stake after seeing that the cards were in his favor. It was a famous trial; the prince was a witness, and Sir William Gordon-Cumming lost. He married the daughter of an American millionaire, Miss Garner of New York, and retired into private life.

Two years later the Duke of Clarence fell a victim to the grip. It was a great blow to both the prince and princess, a bereavement from which they have never fully recovered. After the funeral the prince retired to the deepest privacy. It was many months before he could take up his public duties.

Of late years Marlborough House has become the center of the prince's social and official life. His study, where none but his intimates is admitted, looks like the room of a hardworking man of business. He works at an old fashioned pedestal desk table. The desk shuts with a spring and can be opened only with a golden key, which the prince carries on his watch chain. Every hour of his day is mapped out for him. First comes his private correspondence, which is very large. From 10 till 11 each morning is spent in talking over and dictating replies to letters that have been sorted over by his secretary. The remainder of his day is governed by his appointment book. The social feature of it is very large. When the prince does have an idle hour, he enjoys a new novel that he has picked from the bookstall himself.

No political party has ever been able to rightly claim the Prince of Wales as an adherent, or even as an active sympathizer. He has always managed to keep conspicuously clear of party or sectional interests and still remain an aggressive Englishman.

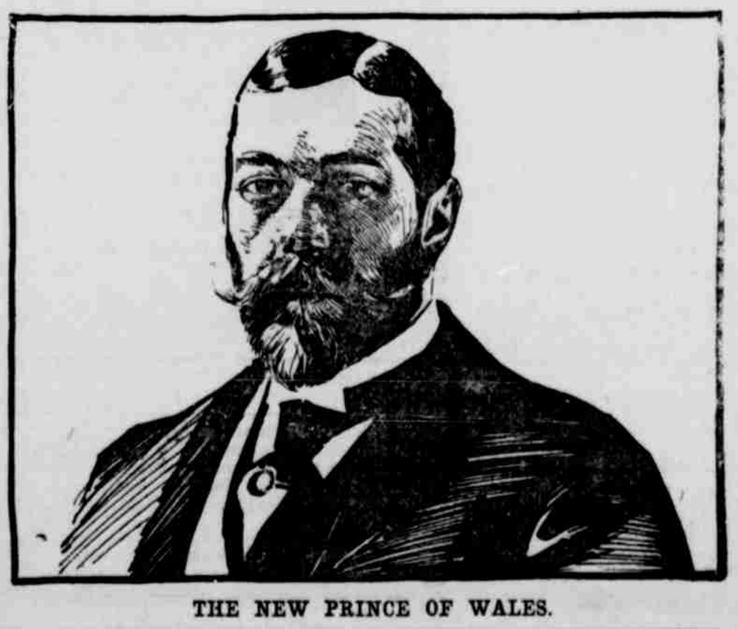
In 1868 the late king of Sweden initiated Albert Edward into the mysteries of Freemasonry. His father had refused to associate himself with the craft, but the prince had views of his own. In 1875 he was elected grand master of England. At one Freemason dinner, when the prince presided, the list of subscriptions reached the enormous sum of $250,000, the largest amount ever raised at a festival dinner in the history of the world.

Americans know the new king as a game sportsman. He began that career early. When he was only 15 years old, accompanying his father on deer stalking expeditions, he was the best shot in his family. In manhood the royal colors—purple, gold band, scarlet sleeves and black velvet cap with gold fringe—have been a familiar sight on all British race courses of the first class. His name has often stood high in the list of winning owners. He is generally agreed to be a capital judge of a horse. His greatest triumph was the winning of the Derby by Persimmon in 1896.

During the past few years King Edward VII has seldom been seen following the hounds, but in the game season he is foremost in big shooting parties. As a yachtsman he has been particularly fortunate. He is the owner of many splendid prizes.

While no one can confidently say what political changes the advent of the new king will make—and it is possible that his rule may materially affect the course of British politics—it is known that he has always had liberal leanings. He detested Beaconsfield; he felt a warm admiration for Gladstone. His most intimate friend among the leading politicians of England is Rosebery. It is already predicted that the new king will work for Rosebery for the premiership.

As for the new queen of England, she is a daughter of the north who at 56 is still beautiful. She is a splendid type of woman and was Princess Alexandra of Denmark prior to her marriage to the Prince of Wales 38 years ago.



THE NEW PRINCE OF WALES.

A very pretty and romantic story is told of how the Princess of Denmark became the wife of Prince Albert Edward of Wales. The prince chanced to be whiling away part of a long summer afternoon with two or three congenial friends when one of them, a colonel, produced from his pocket a photograph.

The prince immediately became struck by the beauty and simplicity of the young person in the picture and soon became possessor of it. Within a very short time he had dispatched a confidential emissary to Denmark to carry his suit to the princess. The emissary was struck by the simplicity of the royal personages, but particularly by the grandeur and beauty of the young princess. Because of her simple home training the princess was best fitted for the pomp and honor of her station. She is a brilliant woman, strictly conservative, of commanding presence and stature.

Her character is at once strong and sweet, and she shows a kindly consideration for all who approach her.

As a mother she is ideal. Her children were reared and educated as befits their station, and their discipline is a matter of comment in England. She is a thoroughly practical woman, fond of the best literature and an accomplished musician.

ALEXANDRA, THE NEW QUEEN.

An intimate friend of the Princess of Wales—for only an intimate friend can be pardoned in so describing her—says that she is "sweet, noble, pretty, snappy, arrogant and disagreeable." Her temper is quick, disagreeable and uncertain." Yet, withal, this friend adds that she is "just the most lovable woman in the world."

Queen Victoria during her long reign has shown herself to be more a man than a woman. Her conduct in time of trouble has been calm and serene, and in time of peace she has displayed the stolidity so admired by Englishmen.

Queen Alexandra, on the other hand, is always a woman. Excitable at times, fervent, pathetic, variable—and womanly always.

The strongest feature displayed by the new queen of England is her clique. No one ever knew Victoria to have an intimate friend. Even Mme. Albani was kept at length, but Queen Alexandra has her friends and falls out with them in a woman's way.

At one time she loved Lady Brooke, but her love cooled; at another she and Lady Randolph Churchill were inseparable—one never shopped without the other—but at a later date she took Lady Craven instead and insisted that she become one of her ladies of honor.

It is not in temperament alone that the new queen differs from her predecessor, but in every other detail.

For years Alexandra has been noted for her taste in dress—an accusation never made of Queen Victoria.

In admirable characteristics Alexandra is not wanting. She is the only one of Queen Victoria's royal daughters-in-law who has been able to get along with her. Even her daughters have found little sympathy in the cool rigidness of the throne. But Alexandra began by determining to like her mother-in-law, and she has kept it up.

Queen Victoria declared that she liked the Princess of Wales better than any one of her own family except Beatrice and that she would sooner see her on the throne than any other one that she could mention.

The new Prince of Wales, like the new king, is a man who has sown his wild oats with a princely and lavish hand. He has, however, settled down and become a man of family and dignity.

George Frederick Ernest Albert, the second and eldest surviving son of the new King Edward VII, has long been known as the Duke of York. He has also been called "the sailor prince" from the fact that he has had a naval career.

He was born June 3, 1865. The young prince, like his brother and sisters, was brought up with the most studied simplicity both in London and at Sandringham and much more like the child of a plain country gentleman than the son of a royal prince as such bringing up is understood in other countries. The Rev. J. N. Dalton was selected by the Prince of Wales as his son's tutor, and under his superintendence the first few years of the young prince's life were passed in quiet study and in a happy home life of which he was the leading spirit.

In 1877 Prince George and the late Duke of Clarence and Avondale became naval cadets and entered on board H. M. S. Britannia, the training ship stationed at Dartmouth. Here the young prince entered upon his training for the profession to which his after life was to be devoted and showed a great deal of taste for naval studies, applying himself in praiseworthy manner to the intricacies of navigation and to the mysteries of knotting and splicing and the other details of a seaman's education. His elder brother, Albert Victor, the duke of Clarence, died in 1892, and George took his place in the succession. York's training has been altogether naval. In 1883 he became a midshipman on board the Canada, with the North American squadron. In 1885, after passing the examinations with great credit, he was promoted to a lieutenancy. His first command was

PRINCE ALBERT EDWARD OF YORK.

that of the gunboat Thrush on the West Indian station, and while occupying that post he opened the Jamaica Industrial exposition in 1890.

Just one year later the young man was raised to the rank of commander, but his actual service was brought to a close by the death of his brother and his own suddenly acquired importance as heir presumptive.

The Duchess of York, his wife, was formerly the pretty Princess May of Teck. The marriage has been very happy, and this royal couple are probably the most democratic of their kind in Great Britain. They have three pretty children, two of whom are princes.

The new Prince of Wales has earned for himself a warm place in British hearts. He is extremely popular, for the English believe him to be thoroughly manly. Only a year ago, when the situation in South Africa developed into a serious war, he declared his eagerness to go and fight the Boers. Only peremptory orders from the queen herself kept him at home.